

**June 17, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, June 17, 2019 in the Commissioners' Room located on the lower level of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman  
David R. Gooden, Vice Chairman  
Michael Cogdell  
Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins  
Arthur Bullock  
Daniel Dowless  
Ray Britt  
Russell Priest

Excused: Ashley Trivette

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

**ITEM 1.** Reverend Warren Hill, Bethel Baptist Church, provided the Invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 2. Remote Participation:**

A. A request from Commissioner Trivette was not addressed in order, but addressed immediately following a motion to amend Consent Items.

**ITEM 3. Consent Items:**

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Munn-Goins to address the Board. Commissioner Munn-Goins expressed concern regarding minutes of the June 7, 2019 Special meeting. Commissioner Cogdell also expressed concern regarding the minutes as well. The matter of concern related to recording of votes in accordance with the Board's Rules of Procedure. Following discussion, County Attorney Allen Johnson was tasked to research and report to the Board his findings.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board tabled Item 3D-Minutes of June 7, 2019 Special Meeting regarding Budget. The motion was by a vote of six (6) AYES (Cogdell, Munn-Goins, Priest, Britt, Dowless, Bullock) to two (2) NOES (Peterson, Gooden).

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously tabled Item 2A: Request to Approve Remote Participation.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Items, with the tabling of Item 3D-Minutes of June 7, 2019 Special Meeting.

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of May 29, 2019 Special Meeting.
- C. Minutes of June 3, 2019 Special Meeting.
- D. Minutes of June 7, 2019 Special Meeting-Tabled.
- E. Minutes of June 11, 2019 Special Meeting.
- F. Budget Amendments, as follows:

**Health**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105900.5961.126	Part-time Salaries	20,000.00	
105900.5961.181	FICA	9,900.00	
105900.5961.610	Contract Services	100,000.00	
105900.5961.395	Meetings	10,300.00	
105900.5961.341	Printing	3,000.00	
105900.5961.801	Indirect Costs	14,320.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.164	Kate B Reynolds Grants	157,520.00	

Kate B Reynolds Charitable Trust Grant No. 2019-037.

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Library

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106700.200	Supplies	1,240.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	1,240.00	

Donation from Community Foundation of the New River Valley.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6161.739	Non-Inventorable	505.00	
146100.6161.341	Printing	250.00	
146100.6161.200	Supplies	420.00	
146100.6161.499.067	Monetary Incentives	500.00	
146100.6161.310.003	Participant Transportation	500.00	
146100.6161.310	Travel	2,250.00	
146100.6161.499	Miscellaneous Expense	600.00	
146100.6161.801	Indirect Costs	600.00	
146100.6161.288	Food	600.00	
146100.6161.499.068	Non-Monetary Incentives	1,712.50	
146100.6161.990	Contingency	2,062.50	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.030	Every Teen Counts Grant (SHIFT NC)	10,000.00	

4<sup>th</sup> qtr Stipend for Grant.

Water

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
254702.325	Postage	2,600.00	
254702.610	Contracted Services	7,400.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
253180.010	Interest on Investments	10,000.00	

Year-end expenses.

Water

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
254702.200.007	Supplies-Water	10,000.00	
254702.616	Tank/Well Maintenance	11,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
253180.010	Interest on Investments	21,000.00	

Year-end expenses.

G. County Attorney Invoices.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>
5/20/2019	Water District	895.00
5/21/2019	Water District	950.00
5/22/2019	Water District	3,500.00
5/31/2019	Governing Board	350.00
6/03/2019	EMS	1,500.00
6/04/2019	Governing Board	300.00
6/06/2019	Administration	400.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,895.00</b>

H. Tax Releases No. 5-19, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.

I. Authorization for County Manager to Approve Budget Amendments through June 30, 2019.

J. Amendment to Minutes of the May 6, 2019 Board of County Commissioners' Meeting, as follows:

**ITEM 5. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

Chairman Peterson recognized Mr. Horace Munn to address the Board. Mr. Munn inquired regarding an issue in East Arcadia related to the ~~community center~~ **facility** which has been utilized by Bladen Community College (BCC). Mr. Munn expressed concern regarding the appearance of the exterior of the community center. He stated that he had requested information from BCC regarding formerly planned repairs to the **BCC East Arcadia community** center. He stated that BCC did have the roof and interior repaired. However, the exterior siding is in serious need of replacement. Mr. Munn estimated the cost to replace the siding to be \$15,000. He asked that BCC fund the replacement of the siding. Chairman Peterson inquired regarding a recent lease agreement between the Town of East Arcadia and BCC which does not stipulate that BCC is responsible for repairs to the building. Mr. Munn indicated that the Town of East Arcadia signed the lease agreement as a good faith effort, but felt that a gentleman's agreement regarding the replacement of exterior siding was in place.

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*Mr. Munn stated that a request had been submitted to the Board of Trustees and BCC President to fund a project to replace the exterior siding. He indicated that no response has been received.*

*Mr. Munn stated that when a recent lease agreement was signed, that funding of an exterior siding replacement project was listed in BCC's budget.*

*Mr. Munn expressed appreciation to the Board.*

- K. FY 2019-20 Statewide Capital Grant in the amount of \$12,700 for the Benefit of Bladen Area Rural Transportation System (BARTS).
- L. Landlord and Tenant Agreement with A. Powell.
- M. Letter of Support for Bladen Disaster Relief Team.
- N. FY 2019-20 Energy Outreach Plan

**ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:**

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Britt to address the Board. He expressed concerns regarding three perceived challenges, including Kelly levee repairs, lights for a ballfield in the Bladenboro area, and a park in the East Arcadia area. He stated that Fund Balance could be accessed to be able to provide "one-time" money to fund these three projects. He explained his concept to provide up to \$35,000 to the Kelly community, which would match Kelly Dike District available funds; \$30,000 to the Bladenboro ballfield lights; and up to \$25,000 as a matching grant to the East Arcadia community park project. In closing, Commissioner Britt challenged the Board to fund the three projects.

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Bullock to address the Board. Commissioner Bullock shared a power point presentation based on emails, pictures, and information recently submitted by Bladen County Water District customer Barbara Tatum. Mrs. Tatum lives in the Live Oak area of the county which was recently affected by recent issues experienced at the Live Oak well site. He stated that Mrs. Tatum has requested adjustments to water charges.

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell asked that the Board consider routinely discussing new techniques or practices.

Chairman Peterson provided an overview of correspondence which had been recently submitted to Bladen County's legislative delegation regarding a House Bill which would allow an additional sales tax (1/4 cent to 1/2 cent). He stated that the House Bill had been approved and forwarded to the Senate. Chairman Peterson sent letters of support, requesting that an additional sales tax be implemented. He further indicated that he should have requested the Board to consider approving the correspondence, and he apologized for this action.

**ITEM 5. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

Chairman Peterson recognized Mrs. Barbara Tatum to address the Board. Mrs. Tatum, as previously presented by Commissioner Bullock, asked the Board to consider making adjustments to water charges for herself and neighbors. Chairman Peterson expressed appreciation to Mrs. Tatum.

Chairman Peterson recognized Mr. Luther Wright to address the Board. Mr. Wright inquired regarding a Parks and Recreation Matching Incentive Grant Program. Chairman Peterson stated that the program had not yet been approved by the Board. Following discussion, the Board indicated its willingness to review the matching incentive grant program during a future meeting.

**ITEM 6. Bladen County Water District:**

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously entered session as Bladen County Water District Board of Directors.
- B. Chairman Peterson recognized LKC Engineering Principal Adam Kiker to provide an update regarding a Phase IV Water System Expansion. Mr. Kiker reported that anticipated results on a test well are expected anytime. He stated that a previous test well did not produce the quality of water anticipated. He further explained that a filtration system may be required to reduce iron and

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other minerals. However, Mr. Kiker did state that he was optimistic that a filtration system may not be required or recommended. Following discussion, the Board expressed appreciation.

Water District Director Alan Edge and General Services Director Kip McClary presented the following Local Water Supply Plans for the Bladen County Water District:

- C. East Bladen (03-09-060)
- D. Tar Heel (03-09-040)
- E. West Bladen (03-09-055)

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously adopted each of the Local Water Supply Plans (6C, 6D, and 6E) as presented.

- F. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously exited session as Bladen County Water Board of Directors and re-entered Regular Session.

**ITEM 7. General Services (Kip McClary, Director):**

- A. Mr. McClary provided an overview of a bid process for a Bladen County Library parking lot resurfacing project. He stated that three bids were received. Of the three, Highland Paving Company, LLC was the low bidder. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously accepted a bid in the amount of \$48,010 submitted by Highland Paving Company, LLC to complete a Bladen County Library parking lot resurfacing project.
- B. Mr. McClary provided an overview of a bid process for a Bladen County Emergency Training Center paving project. He reminded the Board that the project has been funded by a State grant secured through the Sheriff's Office. The budget has been set for \$100,000, which will reduce the original scope of work in order to remain within the budgeted amount. He stated that three bids were received. Of the three, Highland Paving Company, LLC was the low bidder. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously approved the development of an agreement in the amount of \$100,000 with Highland Paving Company, LLC to provide pavement improvement services.

**ITEM 8. Health and Human Services Agency: (Terri Duncan, Director)**

- A. Ms. Duncan provided an overview of seven (7) Bladen County Health Department and Environmental Health Policies. She stated that the required amendments include a recent change of administration and Health Director. They are as follows:

- Internal Controls Process
- New Employee Orientation
- Fixed Assets
- Appeals Policy
- Fees, Eligibility, and Billing Policy an Procedure
- Environmental Health Migrant Housing Policy
- Environmental Health Tattoo Program Policy

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously adopted each of the Health Department and Environmental Health policies as presented.

Chairman Peterson briefly recessed the meeting at 7:19pm.

Chairman Peterson reconvened the meeting at 7:27pm.

**ITEM 9. Finance Office: (Lisa Coleman, Finance Officer)**

- A. Mrs. Coleman provided a brief update regarding the anticipated reduction of the June sales tax allocation. She reminded the Board that the NC Department of Revenue had provided notice to the County that a Bladen County business had been overpaying sales tax and the June 2019 sales tax allocation would reflect a refund to the business. She stated that when received, the allocation was approximately \$205,000 less than anticipated. Mrs. Coleman reviewed a Financial Dashboard for the eleven-month period ending May 31, 2019.

**ITEM 10. Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget:**

- A. Mr. Martin provided an overview of changes incorporated into the proposed FY 2019-20 Budget. He brought attention to the Teen Court Program and a recently received request to restore the program within the County's budget which would be addressed under Item 12B. He also stated that there would be no change in budget for the state-funded position. Following further discussion regarding incorporated changes, Commissioner Gooden made a motion to adopt the FY 2019-20 Budget as presented. Commissioner Dowless provided a second. Commissioner Cogdell made a substantive motion to move \$100,000 from a contingency line item to fund three projects which Commissioner Britt presented earlier in the meeting to benefit the Kelly levee, recreational needs in East Arcadia, and lighting at the Bladenboro ballfield. Commissioner Munn-Goins provided a second to Commissioner Cogdell's substantive motion. During discussion, Commissioner Gooden stated that the Kelly Dike Commission has approximately \$35,000 to begin work to make repairs to the levee. He further stated that may be enough to complete repairs. Chairman Peterson shared that a contractor had stated his willingness to provide the needed repairs for \$30,000. He also shared that Bladenboro should take the responsibility of providing lighting at the ballfield. He further stated that Bladenboro had recently been awarded a grant to renovate and update the ballfield, including providing lighting. He expressed his concern regarding providing lump-sum funding to communities for recreational opportunities. Commissioner Munn-Goins expressed a sense of urgency to provide one-time funding to meet the needs of each of the communities (Kelly, East Arcadia, and Bladenboro). Commissioner Britt reiterated his recommendation to provide matching funds to the Kelly Dike District Committee. He also indicated that he was not aware of a grant to provide lighting for the Bladenboro ballfield, further stating that if funding has been appropriated to complete the project, then county funding would not be necessary. However, if lighting is not included in a grant award, he would still recommend providing county funds to complete the project. He also stated that East Arcadia had requested financial assistance for a recreation project for approximately two (2) years. He expressed support to provide county funding to East Arcadia. Commissioner Cogdell expressed his view to provide funding to communities for specific purposes. He stated that the contingency fund has not been utilized for community use in the past two to three years and expressed his support to provide funding for community projects. Chairman Peterson expressed concern regarding unknown issues regarding the Kelly levee repairs and Bladenboro ballfield lights. He stated that a decision to provide county funding may be premature. Chairman Peterson revisited the motion on the floor. Following discussion, Commissioner Cogdell amended his motion. Commissioner Cogdell made a motion to provide funding from Fund Balance to the Kelly Dike District (up to \$35,000) for repairs, provide funding for a lighting project at the Bladenboro ballfield (\$30,000), and to provide funding to East Arcadia for a recreation project (\$25,000). Mr. Martin indicated that three line items would be created in the Governing Board's budget for the three projects if approved. However, prior to

appropriating the funds, the Board would be asked to approve each of the expenditures.

Commissioner Cogdell's motion, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, passed on a vote of six (6) AYES (Cogdell, Munn-Goins, Priest, Britt, Dowless, Bullock) to two (2) NOES (Peterson, Gooden).

**ITEM 11. Advisory Board Appointments:**

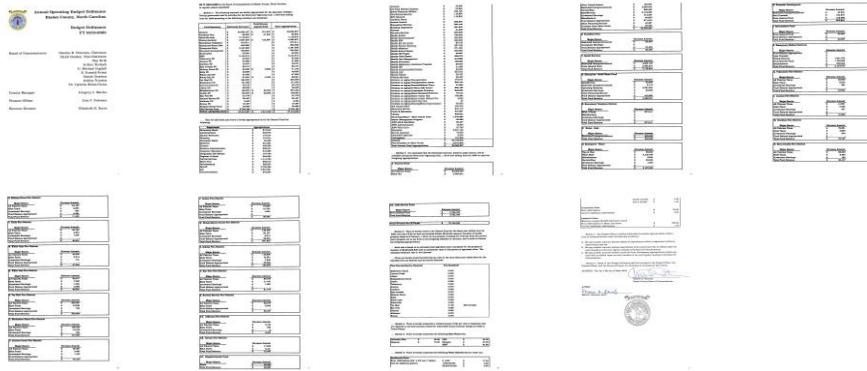
- A. Adult Care Home Advisory Board (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously reappointed Janet Miller to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring June 30, 2022.
- B. Ammon Fire Service District Committee (3):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously reappointed Dean Hicks, and Lonnie Harris and, waiving the rules on term limits, reappointed John Graham to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring June 30, 2022.
- C. Elizabethtown Airport/Economic Development Commission (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, reappointed Reynold Hester, and appointed Ashley Dowless to three-years terms of service, with the terms expiring June 30, 2022.
- D. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (3):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously tabled appointments.
- E. Local Emergency Planning Committee (9):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously tabled appointments.
- F. Lumber River Workforce Development Board (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously tabled appointments.
- G. Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment (5):** Commissioner Cogdell recommended that Corey Lyons be reappointed. Commissioner Britt recommended that Evan Britt be reappointed. Commissioner Gooden recommended that Don White be reappointed. Commissioner Munn-Goins recommended that Al Daniels be appointed. Commissioner Bullock recommended that Angela Hines be appointed. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously accepted the recommendations, and reappointed Corey Lyons, Evan Britt, and Don White; and appointed Al Daniels and Angela Hines to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring June 30, 2022.
- H. Recreation Committee (4):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously reappointed Ritchie Priest, and appointed Julie Sasser, Kyle Bostic, and Mark Gillespie to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring June 30, 2022.
- I. Tobermory Fire Service District Committee (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously tabled appointments.

**ITEM 12. County Manager: (Greg Martin)**

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of June and July 2019.

Following calendar review and discussion regarding a prior motion related to FY 2019-20 Budget, Chairman Peterson revisited Commissioner Gooden's motion to approve the FY 2019-20 Budget Ordinance. Commissioner Dowless provided the second. The motion passed unanimously. The Approved FY 2019-20 Budget Ordinance follows:

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- B. Mr. Martin provided an overview of a request recently received from Chief Assistant District Attorney Quintin McGee related to a Teen Court program. He stated that the District Attorney's Office had been awarded state funds through the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council to provide funding for a county employee to serve as Teen Court Coordinator. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved restoring the Teen Court Program in the county budget.

Mr. Martin provided an overview of bids received for county-owned properties. He stated that each of the bids covers the county's investment. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously accepted each of the following bids, initiating the upset bid process:

- C. A bid in the amount of \$7,140 for county-owned property (PIN Nos. 1352-063-9324 and 1352-0639-9482) located at 89 Gum Street, White Lake.
- D. A bid in the amount of \$4,230 for county-owned property (PIN No. 2214-0072-6120) located off Natmore Road in the Kelly community.
- E. A bid in the amount of \$7,500 for county-owned property (PIN No. 0366-0066-0361) located at 4689 River Road, White Oak.

**ITEM 13. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

Commissioner Bullock inquired regarding an update related to the Magistrate's office hours. Chairman Peterson stated that he would provide an update shortly.

Commissioner Munn-Goins inquired regarding the beaver management program. Chairman Peterson stated that the funded program was included in the FY 2019-20 Budget.

No one else in attendance addressed the Board.

**ITEM 14. Closed Session:**

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board entered Closed Session in Accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel at 7:57pm.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board exited Closed Session at 8:09pm.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:10pm.

**ATTEST:**

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Maria C. Edwards, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board

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Charles R. Peterson, Chairman  
Bladen County Board of Commissioners